

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants note the Examiner's consideration of the art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 23, 2002 as acknowledged in the Office Action Summary. Applicants further note the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of the certified priority document.

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. In the last Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 3 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if presented as an independent claim. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grubb et al. WO 00/49721: PCT/US00/04286.

In order to advance prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claim 1, represented claim 3 in independent form, and amended claim 2 to be dependent on claim 3. Accordingly, by these amendments, the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot and the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the claims is requested in light of the preceding amendments and remarks. Allowance of the claims is courteously solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

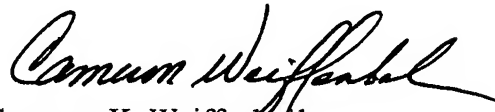
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Weiffenbach", written in a cursive style.

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